

The Monroe Doctrine.
The implied invitation to European nations to interfere in Cuban affairs contained in the late message of President Grant seems not to have attracted as much attention as it ought to have done.

We should not like to be considered excitable and inclined to raise a row where there is no occasion and no reason for it. Certainly there was a time when the people of this nation were extremely jealous of foreign nations with regard to their taking a hand in the politics of this continent. Their feelings found expression in Mr. Monroe's indignant objection to anything that seemed to imply an intention in Europe to interfere in American affairs.

General Grant's message certainly rendered this position in inviting such interference in Cuban affairs. Times have changed, and so may the views of the American people have changed. It would be a great departure from the policy of our forefathers. Washington spoke for them in advising the nation to avoid all entangling alliances with foreign nations, and Mr. Monroe but a few years afterwards as a corollary of this wise policy proclaimed the national rule of resistance to all foreign interference with American politics.

It is possible that this nation may by its ambition, if not the force of circumstances by which it may be surrounded, break loose from the wise precautionary policy of our ancestors, and embark on that broad sea of Diplomacy which will require us to abandon the wisdom of Washington and Monroe; and as we mean to take a hand in European politics to grant reciprocal rights of intervention to European nations on this side the Atlantic. If the American people have made up their minds to this, very well.

But they had better think twice before they do it.

The Southern Penal Colonies.

President Grant, with his narrow-gauge, vulgar philosophy, views the troubles of the southern States as altogether growing out of the cruelties of the whites towards the blacks. He recommends the sending of a committee down to Louisiana to ascertain "whether the alleged wrongs to colored citizens for political purposes were real or the reports thereof were manufactured for the occasion."

The sending committees down to the States to see how they are getting along resembles those terrible commissions sent out by the French Assembly to the departments—sent out to accuse and to punish rather than promote the ends of justice.

While the ruthless Republican party had all the power and felt so strong that they did not fear the loss of power, the committee-men were like the commissioners of the French Assembly. They were mere parasites determined to make reports that would strengthen republicanism and lead to further punishments of the poor southern people because they would not turn Republicans.

We are glad now to see a statement that by the committees sent to see things in the South will be moved by somewhat modified motives. It is said if one is sent by the House of Representatives Mr. Blaine will select gentlemen who are rejected to the next Congress, and who will feel some responsibility with regard to the future peace of the country and the fair administration of the Government.

This would be excellent. Mr. Blaine has some hope of the heaven of politics—i.e., promotion in the near future—and he is not willing to sacrifice his prospects to the sordid and brutal goal of Republicanism. Appointed by him a committee will hardly go down to the Gulf to put a few questions to negroes, and carpet-baggers, and sealwags, and return to Washington with recommendations intended to defeat justice and increase the woes of the South. If this sending of committees is to be continued we do trust some of those that are to be made will have some semblance of honesty, that the world may have something like truth from official quarters concerning the South. It is time.

The South has been treated more like a penal colony than a part of a republic. If Congress cannot improve its administration of southern affairs it would better put it up at auction to the lowest bidder, as penitentiaries are sometimes, to be worked and governed by contract. It would be an improvement of affairs. We would as soon see some one else as General Grant the superintendent of the southern penitentiary. Bled-Hamman would be an angel of mercy compared to him.

But we hope for better things. A patent break will soon be put upon the wheels of Government to impede its downward way to avarice; and in two years we shall have a new heaven and a new earth of politics. The Government itself will be rescued from the downward course, and only the Republican party will reach the terminus to which they have been so rapidly carrying the whole country. We conjecture that General Grant will jump off the train and disembark himself for life; but will in this way escape the fires of the terminus. He has done that which should save him from the fates of the worst Republicans. His gallant protection of Lee and his comrades would save him if any southern man had to pass judgment upon him.

Criminal Charges.

The recommendation that criminal charges shall be left to be paid by the counties and cities in which they occur is not new. Governor KEMP is not the first State officer who has offered it. We have always opposed it. We do not suppose that the Legislature will think seriously of adopting it. Crimes are in their effects not local, and a victim of crime is not alone in the injury he sustains. The criminal is an enemy of mankind, and every member of a community is interested in the condign punishment of the criminal whose crime has fallen upon one of their number. Were the guilty one left off there is no telling who might be his next victim. Therefore every man should contribute to the common fund needed to restrain crime and punish criminals. That community is best protected which is most strongly defended by the rigid administration of law and the just punishment of crime. This can in no way be insured except by the payment of the costs of criminal prosecutions equally by all that are interested in the faithful prosecution of those who are by their crimes the enemies of society.

Criminal charges are very unequal amongst the counties. Cases occur sometimes in small counties that involve expenses which those counties cannot pay. The tendency, were the counties required to pay them, would be to relax the rigors of law to diminish the county expenses. This, in some degree, would find an apology on the ground

that it would be unjust to require a few persons to pay the cost of protecting a large community. Crime menaces a whole State—the whole State must provide for its punishment.

Louisiana.

The Returning Board of Louisiana, it was anticipated, would nullify the Conservative majority "by hook or by crook." It is said that in De Soto parish the supervisor had handed over the returns to some person who declines to give them up unless he is paid \$1,000. In several telegrams of late it has been stated that the Returning Board would do what it could to defeat the Conservatives. The holding back for an indefinite time a sufficient number of Conservative returns to insure a Republican majority in the Legislature is one plan.

General Grant assured Congress that in the absence of any action by that body he will sustain the existing Government and pay no respect to any number of claimants against it.

Well, we don't know that there need be any serious regret about it. The piling up of wrong only helps up retribution. Good government is due to good citizens who help to increase the national wealth. This nation will not bolster up those mockeries of Government created by barbarians and thieves that destroy all energy and all prosperity along with order and dignity. All the Grants and Kalmegs that have been since creation could not long obstruct this judgment.

General Assembly of Virginia.

MONDAY, December 14, 1874. SENATE.

Lieutenant-Governor Withers in the chair.

HOUSE BILLS REFERRED.

House bill to amend the Code in relation to bridges between counties was referred to the Committee on General Laws.

House bill in relation to the charter of the town of Port Royal was referred to the Committee on County, City and Town Organization.

House bill for the relief of H. H. Weil, of Fauquier county, was referred to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE BILLS REFERRED.

House joint resolution authorizing the Governor to cancel the contract between the State and Mason, Gooch & Hoge for the hire of certain convicts.

Senate bill to incorporate the Protestant Episcopal Education Society in Virginia.

Senate bill to amend an act to incorporate the Episcopal High School and Theological Seminary in Virginia.

Senate bill for the relief of P. R. Hooper, B. M. Jorgensen, and James Mickle, surties of B. M. Cox, late sheriff of Prince Edward county.

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. TAYLOR: A resolution as to the expediency of amending section 8 of chapter 97 of the Code so as to afford additional protection to the State.

By Mr. ALLAN: A bill to amend the Code in relation to the maintenance of illegitimate children.

By Mr. ALLAN: A resolution as to the expediency of establishing a separate prison or workhouse for youths.

By Mr. EVANS: A resolution as to the expediency of amending section 8 of chapter 8 of the Code so as to require the appointment of judges of election upon the recommendation of the different political parties.

By Mr. PATTERSON: A resolution calling for executive expenditures for the past fiscal year.

By Mr. MOFFETT: A resolution as to the expediency of utilizing a portion of the portion of the capitol and converting the same into committee-rooms; also, as to what additional rooms in the capitol may be gotten for use of committees, &c.

By Mr. EVANS: A bill for the relief of J. M. Jorgensen, and James Mickle, surties of B. M. Cox, late sheriff of Prince Edward county.

By Mr. EVANS: A resolution as to the expediency of amending the Code so as to prevent the conversion of public warehouses into private warehouses.

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GOODS FOR CHRISTMAS.

AND ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

Make your husbands, wives, and children presents of useful articles.

HANDKERCHIEFS, GLOVES, AND WORK-BOXES in great variety.

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PARLOR CHAIRS, with SAPPHIRES to match, an elegant article for a present.

JET CROQUET BEADED POCKETS at one half price.

SILK NECK-SCARVES from 20c to 82c. This em- brace is the latest style in this city.

INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS for ladies and gen- tlemen, among which will be found a full assort- ment of the latest styles.

LACE, HEMSTITCHED, AND EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS.

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SASH RIBBONS in great variety from 40c. up to 1.25 per yard.

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COTTON, CASHMERE, AND LAMBS-WOOL COATS, CASHMERE, AND LAMBS-WOOL COATS.

JEWELRY, Fan-Rings, Neck-Pins, Crosses, Medallions, Bracelets, Necklaces, and Ban- deaux.

COLORED HANDKERCHIEF EXTRACTS; also, Violet, lavender, multiflora and Roseoda- rine Water, and Rose Water.

BEADED and BEGGING GIMPS, Fringes and In- sertings in great variety, at much below regular prices.

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PLAIN and BEADED YAK LACES, Gulpure, Bobbin, Thread, Valenciennes, and Duchess Laces.

BLACK and COLORED VELVET RIBBONS at greatly reduced prices.

CLARKS in great variety; among which will be found some elegant beaded ones suitable for hol- iday presents.

ELEGANT LACE and NOTTINGHAM CUR- TAINS in great variety.

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BLEACHED, Unbleached, Colored, and Printed Cotton Flannels at bottom prices.

Another decline in the price of COTTON GOODS: New York Mills, 133c; Wamutta, 10c; Da- vey, 14c; Unbleached Knitting Cotton, 35c per pound. Notice we give our customers the advantage of the decline immediately.

PILOW-CASE COTTON and SHEETINGS re- ceived from the mills.

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GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS in great variety at much below the regular prices.

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IN DEER-SKINS you will find BLACK and COLORED SILKS, MERINO, CASHMERE, TYCOON REPS, MATALES SUITINGS, EMPRESS CLOTHS, SERGES, ALPACAS, MOHAIRS, BRILLIANTINES, TAMISE, BOMBAZINES, &c., &c.

BLACK and COLORED SILK VELVETS. Purchasers of dry goods will find it to their advantage to make their purchases of us. We keep the largest, cheapest, and best-assorted stock of goods in the State; ask but one price, and that the lowest. We are always the first to mark down our prices when there is a decline.

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BLACK CASHMERE and ALPACAS; MOUNTAIN DRAP DRESS for Sequences; BLACK GRASS-GRAIN LACE; BAZILLI; PLUM and new styles of DRESS GOODS—30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 405